

MONTANA



Justice Assistance Grant

2005 – 2008
Drug Strategy

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Drug Strategy

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
Needs Statement and Data Analysis	5
Major Sources of Drugs	10
Priorities & the National Drug Control Strategy	11
Selected Programs	12
Coordination Efforts	13
References	14

2005 JAG Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Montana Board of Crime Control is the Governor's Single State Planning Agency for public safety, crime prevention and victim assistance.

Montana Board of Crime Control Mission Statement

**To promote public safety, crime prevention, and victim assistance,
by strengthening the coordination and performance of both the
Criminal Justice and Juvenile Justice systems in partnership
with citizens, government and communities**

Montana is the fourth largest state geographically with a population of just over 900,000 people that is divided into 56 counties. MT shares a 545-mile border with Canada and 15 official ports of entry. There are six population centers. The largest is Yellowstone County with a population of 100,000. Three fourths of the state has towns with fewer than 1,000 people. Law enforcement manpower averages 1.5 per 1,000 populations. Many jurisdictions cover several hundred square miles.

Montana has traditionally attracted activist/extremists individuals and groups that present a terrorist threat to the state. Ted Kacznski the Unabomber was based out of Lincoln, Montana. The Freeman group had an eighty-one day standoff in eastern Montana. Their goal was to carve out a "refuge" for individuals involved in anti-government activities.

Montana has maintained a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designation since 2001 and is a member of the Rocky Mountain HIDTA. With in the past year Montana has two major drug trafficking corridors; I-15 that runs north from the Canadian border and south, I-90 is east - west. There have been a number of major MJDTF drug arrests on these corridors that have yield large amounts of drugs, cash, and weapons.

Montana's 545-miles of border with Canada is extremely porous. There is speculation that, as the more populous Border States with greater resources strengthen their focus on terrorism, human trafficking, and drug trafficking along their borders, the more pressure will be placed on Montana's porous border.

Within the past year, Montana's Multi-jurisdictional Drug Taskforces (MJDTF) have played a key role with numerous illegal activities along the northern border with two major arrests that yield large amounts of marijuana and methamphetamine?

Montana's MJDTFs has a critical prevention role with many agencies, mutually engaged agencies, to maintain a drug interdiction presence along the northern border, which intersects with homeland security protection. MJDTF efforts of intelligence sharing, prevention / deterrence, public safety, and cases resulting in arrests are also important as they intersect with Homeland Security initiatives.

Montana's 2005 legislative session has been aggressive with addressing the issues of drug trafficking, manufacturing, mandatory offender treatment, and related bills.

Some highlights include:

HB721 – Montana Drug Offender Accountability Treatment Act.

SB166 - Revised Methamphetamine Enforcement Laws.

HB307 - Money Laundering as a Criminal Offense.

HB 440 – Require Locks on Anhydrous Ammonia Storage Tanks.

SB287 – Regulate of Ephedrine, Pseudo ephedrine – Montana Meth Watch Program

HB326 – Strengthen Penalty for 2nd and Subsequent Meth. Possession Convictions

HB60 – Establish Indoor Cleanup Standards for Meth Labs.

There were a number of other noteworthy bills not passed related to regulating access to manufacturing precursor drugs, media efforts to counter meth, expanding treatment options and revising offender-sentencing laws.

The Montana Board of Crime Control has played a pivotal role with planning and implementing Meth Watch Programs in a number of Montana communities. Planning and supporting the Governor's Meth Summit June of 2004, convening the Montana Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, and providing data and informational reports for the 2005 legislature.

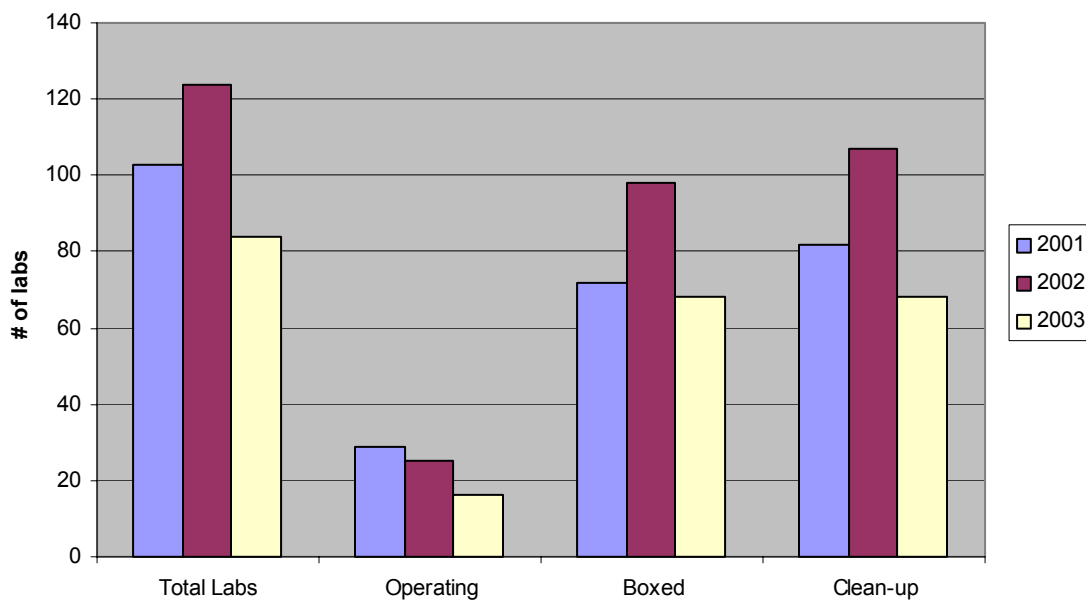
Needs Statement and Data Analysis

Clandestine lab manufacturing and trafficking remains Montana's most serious public safety and public health issue driving the majority of crime, arrests, and incarceration.

Montana's Multi-jurisdictional Drug Taskforces (MJDTF) have played a major role with identifying and dismantling clandestine methamphetamine labs, drug arrests and drug removal in Montana communities.

Montana has seen a decrease in the number of labs from 2002 to 2003 (see charts below).

Meth Labs in Montana, 2001-2003



Arrest Summary –July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

Drug Name	Cult/Manf	Distribution	Possession	Other	Total
Cocaine		8	16		24
Ecstasy/MDMA		1	0		1
Heroin		0	2		2
Marijuana	20	134	254	122	530
Methamphetamine	91	146	174	9	420
Morphine		1	0	0	1
Other Hallucinogen	2	3	8		13
Other Drugs	0	7	13	17	37
<u>Totals</u>	113	300	467	148	1028

Drug Removal by MJDTF July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

Drug Name	Seized Grams	Purchased Grams	Seized Dosage Units	Purchased Dosage Units
Cocaine	8,4823.96	614.31		
Crack Cocaine	78.70			
Ecstasy/MDMA	3.00		35,323	26
Hashish	991.00	43.13		
Heroin	248.99			
LSD			19	
Marijuana	956,718.43	190,552.36		
Methamphetamine	30,141.89	7,274.70		
Morphine	27.50	530.00	13	15
Opium	3.50			
Other Hallucinogen	1,059.64	140.78		21
Other Drugs	47.10	62.70	30,514	1,284
<u>TOTAL</u>	997,802.71	199,217.98	65,869	1,346
<u>WEIGHT by POUND</u>	2,638.94			
MARIJUANA PLANTS	4,846			
TOTAL PILLS REMOVED	67,215			

The MJDTF lab reduction efforts in Montana have been coupled with community based awareness programs, community mobilization (Montana Meth Watch), and merchant education, and reduced access to precursor chemical needed to manufacture the drug.

It is imperative that Montana's MJDTF efforts coupled with community mobilization remain vigilant to maintain the downward trend in manufacturing with a goal to eliminate this activity in our communities.

The focus on supply and demand reduction continues to be Montana's primary strategy. However, with the reduction in labs we anticipate an increase in the amount of trafficking to meet the demand. Certainly education, prevention, and treatment are cornerstones of the strategy of demand reduction.

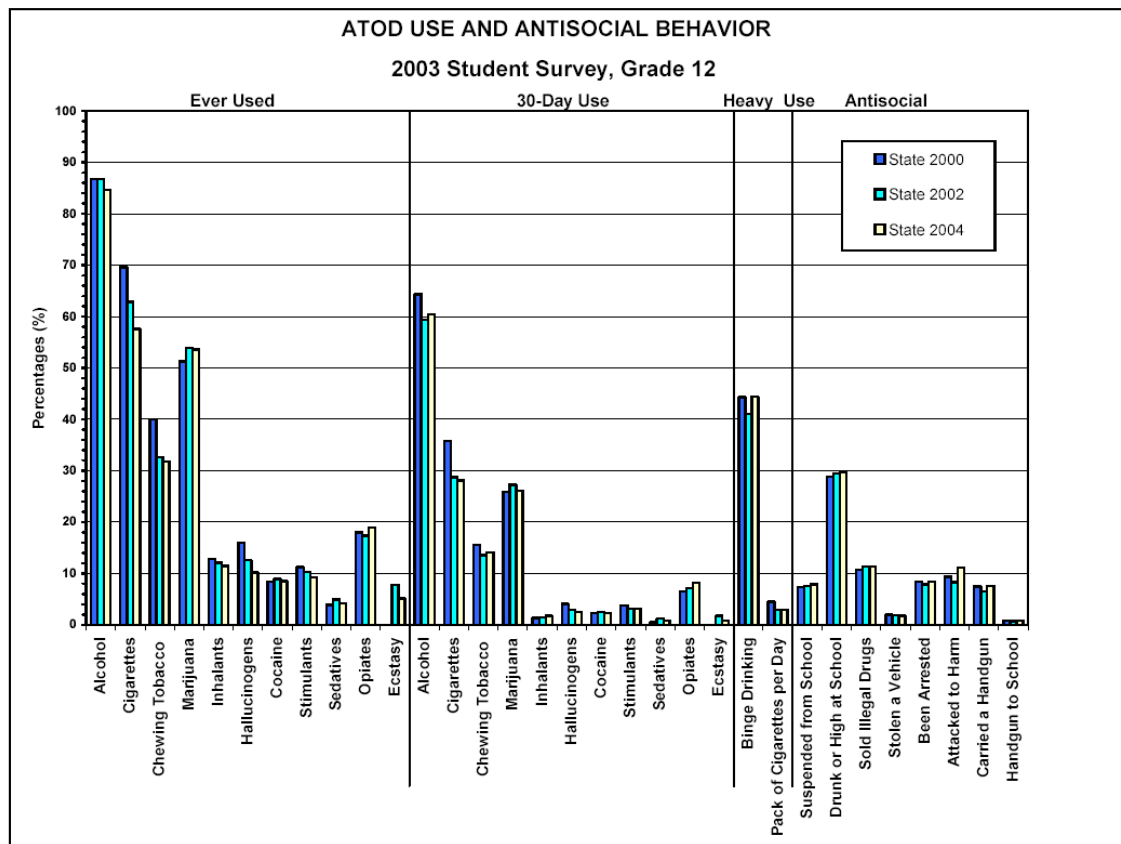
Marijuana remains the most widely used and available drug in Montana and accounts for the majority of PHHS (publicly funded) treatment admission followed by methamphetamine. Even though alcohol is the major reported drug of choice, the majority of these admissions are poly drug uses and find it safer to report alcohol rather than illegal drugs upon admission.

The majority of PHHS treatment admissions come directly from the criminal justice system. The most rapidly growing special needs populations are methamphetamine-addicted women with children and persons with co-occurring diagnosis (substance abuse and mental illness). The severity of these populations and their special needs coupled with the profound debilitating affect of methamphetamine makes Montana's drug enforcement and reduction strategies critical.

Statewide Totals/Primary Drug	
Alcohol	3,805
Cocaine/Crack	107
MJ/Hash	1,249
Heroin	52
Non-Pres. Methadone	35
Other Opiates	267
PCP	2
Other Hallucinogens.	9
Methamphetamine	896
Other Amphetamine.	20
Other Stimulants.	2
Benzodiazepine.	13
Other Tranquilizers.	5
Barbiturates	1
Other Sedatives.	15
Inhalants	8
OTC	4
Other	3
	6,493

Montana's Department of Health and Human Services conduct a biannual Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) that surveys over 20,000 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. The survey demonstrates the availability of drugs to Montana's youth.

The chart below indicates grade 12th data regarding lifetime use, past 30-day use, heavy use and anti-social behavior. As the chart shows, for 2004 marijuana is the most accessible drug with 55% of 12th graders reporting lifetime use and 28% reporting use within the past 30 days. Methamphetamine is in the stimulant category with 10% of 12th graders reporting lifetime use.



The MJDTF arrests described above have resulted in prosecution, diversion, and sentencing to Montana's Department of Corrections. Montana has worked diligently to coordinate its state and federal resources (such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration block grant, BJA's RSAT, and reentry projects, and Montana's Pre-Release / Treatment system) to address the comprehensive needs of offenders.

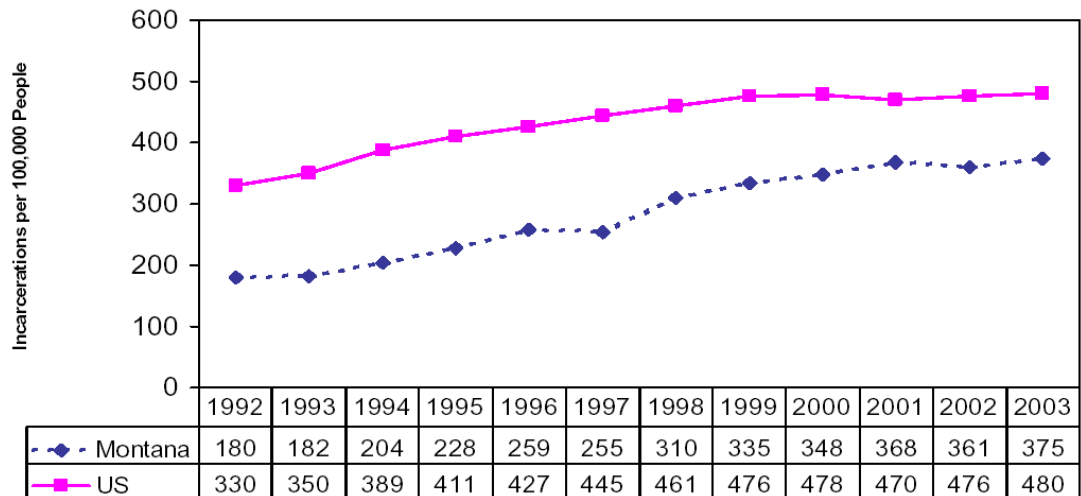
The first chart below illustrates the top ten convictions in Montana. Not only are the drug convictions notable but also the other crimes indicated (such as, theft and forgery) are the types of crimes committed to maintain a drug habit. The second chart illustrates that Montana's incarceration rates continued to climb as compared to the national trends that appear to be leveling off.

Top 10 Conviction Offenses FY1995-FY2004

Males	Females
1. THEFT	1. POSSESSION OF DRUGS
2. POSSESSION OF DRUGS	2. THEFT
3. BURGLARY	3. FORGERY
4. FELONY DUI	4. ISSUING A BAD CHECK OVER \$150
5. SALE OF DRUGS	5. SALE OF DRUGS
6. ISSUING A BAD CHECK OVER \$150	6. FELONY DUI
7. CRIMINAL ENDANGERMENT	7. DRUG OFFENSES, OTHER STATE
8. FORGERY	8. BURGLARY
9. FELONY ASSAULT	9. DECEPTIVE PRACTICES
10. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	10. CRIMINAL ENDANGERMENT

Prison Incarceration Rate for Montana and the US 1992-2003

(Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics)



Updated 11/03/2004

Major Drug Sources

- ◆ The majority of cocaine available in Montana comes from Mexican polydrug trafficking groups, with sources of supply located in the state of Washington and the Southwest Border States.
- ◆ Heroin distribution is not a significant problem in Montana and the trafficking and sales of heroin are declining. Mexican groups transport heroin to the state from Los Angeles and Houston. Usually trafficking in ounce and multi-ounce quantities.
- ◆ The majority of methamphetamine in Montana is trafficked by Mexican national groups. Additionally, numerous small-scale local laboratory operators are appearing with more frequency. Most of these laboratories are operated by Caucasians.
- ◆ Local independent dealers who transport small quantities (one thousand or more tablets) from Denver distribute ecstasy in Montana.
- ◆ The majority of the marijuana consumed in Montana originates from Mexico, where polydrug organizations transport marijuana in vehicles from the southwest Border States to Montana. Locally produced marijuana is grown indoors. B.C. Bud is often smuggled directly into Montana across the Canadian border.

Priorities & the National Drug Control Strategy

The Montana Board of Crime Control recognizes that in order to adequately address Montana's drug problem, a comprehensive strategy of planning, data, and measurement of effectiveness must be implemented within a supply / demand three legged stool approach that emphasizes:

- 1) Supply Reduction by solid law enforcement visibility and activity.
- 2) A strong system of Education, Prevention, and Treatment.
- 3) A court and correctional system that installs a continuum of sanctions.

The Montana Board of Crime Control has aligned its structure through planning by establishing sub-committees to address specific elements of the strategy to assure that resources are targeted where needed for the best possible outcome and that data is utilized to gauge trends and communicate its findings to law makers, administrators, and the public.

Montana Priorities:

A. Montana's priority with Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding is the supply reduction of illegal drugs and disrupting of the manufacturing and distribution system.

The JAG funds will be awarded to Multi-jurisdictional Drug Taskforces. They are key to reducing the supply of drugs in Montana. They focus on the manufacturing and distribution of illegal drugs. This Priority is connected to the National Priority III - Disrupting the Market: Attacking the Economic Base of Drug Trade.

B. Montana second JAG priority is education about the dangers of illegal drugs.

The MJDTF's make presentations to key community leaders, and the general public about manufacturing and trafficking. They also conduct educational sessions to schools about the dangers of illegal drugs. The MJDTF Officers are excellent presenters and are seen as credible sources. This Priority is connected to the National Priority I - Stopping Use Before it Starts: Education and Community action.

C. Montana's third priority is developing the continuum of sanctions for illegal use of drugs.

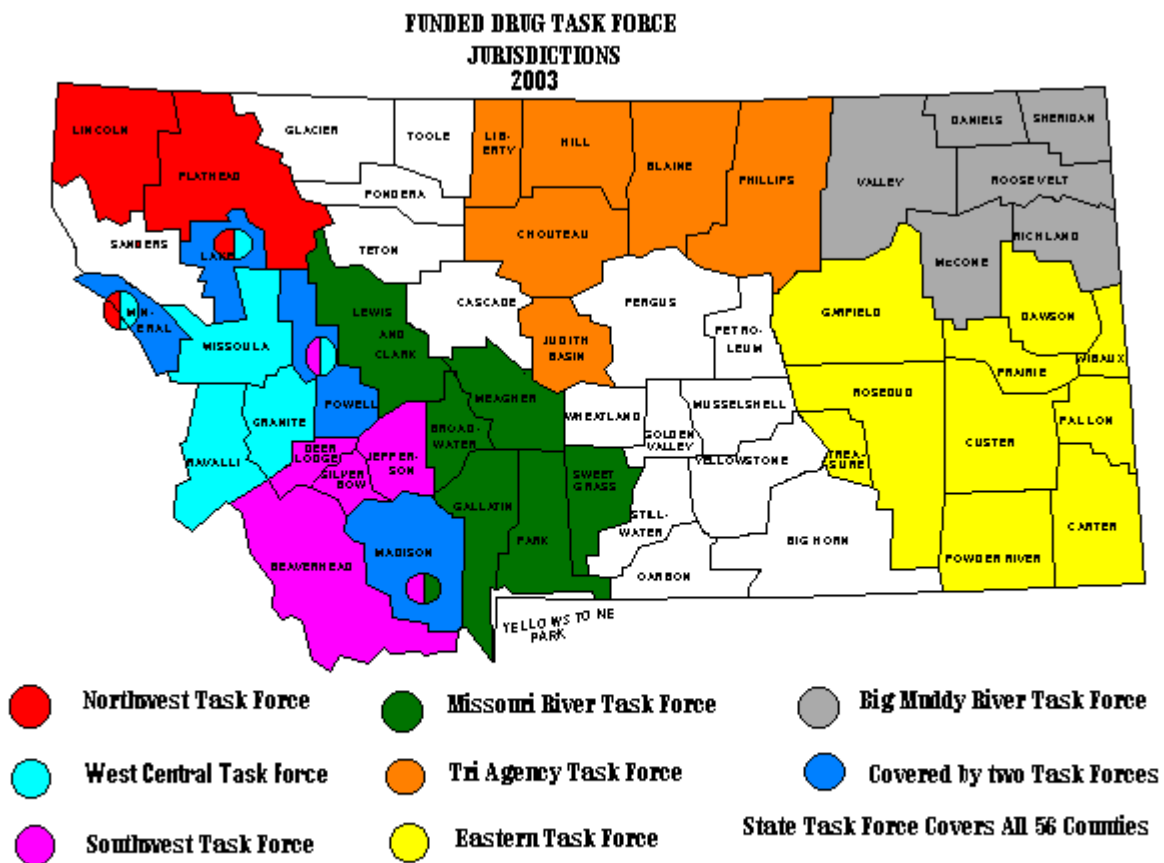
This Priority is connected to the National Priority II - Healing America's Drug Users: Getting treatment Resources Where they are needed.

Selected Programs

Montana recognizes that our MJDTF efforts are pivotal to a comprehensive drug strategy of education, prevention, and treatment. Without drug enforcement availability increases then the three-legged stool approach collapses.

The Montana Board of Crime Control has decided to dedicate the Justice Assistance Grant resources to purpose area 1. Montana will also retain the match requirement.

The JAG funds will continue to operate the 7 local multi-jurisdictional drug task forces. (Refer to MJDTF map below). Each of the 7 local MJDTF's is comprised of law enforcement agencies from a minimum of five jurisdictions



The areas that do not have JAG funded MJDTF's are covered by the State Drug Taskforce operated in the Montana Department of Justice. Additionally, a number of the counties have there own internally funded drug enforcement agencies that coordinated their efforts with the JAG funded MJDTF's, the State Drug Taskforce.

Five counties participate in the HIDTA program along with JAG funded MJDTF personnel who also coordinate their enforcement efforts and training with HIDTA.

The five participating counties are:

- ♦ Flatheads County
- ♦ Missoula County
- ♦ Lewis & Clark County
- ♦ Cascade County
- ♦ Yellowstone County

State Drug Task Force:

As a result of the re-distribution of funds by congress to Montana our Attorney General has asked the Montana legislature to general fund the state level drug taskforce and the state forensic science laboratory. This hard funding demonstrates Montana's commitment to drug enforcement and will at the very least secure a barebones enforcement effort within the State of Montana.

The State Drug Taskforce serves as central command and provides a Resident Agent for the Eastern DTF, the Tri-Agency DTF and the Southwest DTF. They also manage the accounting and reporting for these taskforces.

Match for the grant comes from the local jurisdiction and their local board still provides the oversight for the task force. This arrangement is being used in the Southwest and Eastern Drug Task Forces very successfully.

Coordination Efforts

Coordination with other federal initiatives:

The Board maintains a good working relationship with the Rocky Mountain HIDTA. The Executive Director of the HIDTA has been interested in working together with the Board and staff of the Board of Crime Control.

The Montana Board of Crime Control hosted the State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training (SLATT) for law enforcement officers. The Board, Rocky Mountain HIDTA, Montana Department of Justice and the Montana Narcotics Officers Association jointly sponsored the training. Over 60 officer from state, local and federal agencies attended.

MBCC's Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) Council maintain ongoing training and development efforts with HIDTA project.

State or local coordination efforts:

Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) was established in 1968 in response to the 1968 Safe Streets Act. The Board serves as the Governor's Single State Agency and is responsible for public safety, crime prevention and victims' assistance.

MBCC has been responsible for significant improvements to Montana's justice system. Not only does the Board strive to improve the justice system, but also the Board has always been a forum for the discussion of ideas and innovation in the justice system.

Homeland Security:

The Board of Crime Control is currently administering the FY 2004 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention (LETP) funds for the Montana Homeland Security Task Force. This should further enhance the Board's support of the anti-terrorism effort.

Montana Narcotics Officer Association

The Board staff participates in the annual Montana Narcotics Officer's Association annual meetings and maintains a good working relationship. They co-sponsored the SLATT training for Montana narcotics officers.

References for the material regarding the strategy came from the following:

- ♦ State of Montana – Profile of Drug Indicators, Office of the National Drug Control Policy
- ♦ Prevention Needs Assessment and Treatment Data System, Addictive and Mental Disorders Division, MT-DPHHS
- ♦ Montana Statistical Analysis Center – Montana Board of Crime Control
- ♦ Montana Department of Corrections
- ♦ Montana's Homeland Security, Strategic Plan
- ♦ Montana Board of Crime Control Handbook